(iii) Intensive coaching of the players by Indian and foreign coaches in coaching camps.

(iv) Intensive training abroad to the teams all well Indian Coaches.

(v) Financial Assisance to concerned federations for participation of sportspersons in international tournaments.

(vi) Assistance for purchase of equipment, scientific support and training and participation within the country and abroad under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training' and the 'National Sports Development Fund'.

(vii) With a view to broad-basing of sports and scouting for talent at a young age, the Government is assisting Army under 'Army Boys Sports Company Scheme' (ABSC). In addition to eight existing ABSCs, ten more ABSCs have been sanctioned during the current year.

Measures for transparency in selection of sportspersons

686. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether considering the overall poor performance of the Indian sports-persons during the last Olympic Games in Athens, Government has initiated any measures to bring about transparency in selection, improve quality of training and performance of the selected sportspersons in the run up to the forthcoming Commonwealth, Asian and Olympic Games; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) After Athens Olympic Games, 2004, meetings with office bearers of the major National Sports Federations were held to analyze their past performance and discuss their future plan of action for achieving excellence in international events. The Federations were advised to ensure transparency in team selection and improvement in quality of training so that performance of the Indian sports-persons improve further in the forthcoming regional and international events.

Government of India, in addition to providing sports infrastrucure, is taking the following steps to improve the performance of sportspersons in the international games:-

(i) Finalization & implementation of Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) for various sports disciplines in consultation with the concerned National Sports Federations, former international sportspersons and sports scientists experts.

(ii) Provision of equipment and scientific support to sportspersons.

(iii) Intensive coaching of the players by Indian and foreign coaches in coaching camps.

(iv) Intensive training abroad to the teams.

(v) Financial assistance to concerned federations for participation of sportspersons in international tournaments.

(vi) Assistance for purchase of equipment, scientific support and training and participation within the country and abroad under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training' and the 'National Sports Development Fund'.

India's bid for Olympics 2012

687. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is bidding for the Olympics in 2012;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate preparatory work has been done by Government;

(d) to what extent Government is making a serious effort in this regard; and

(e) whether adequate sport infrastructure is available to make a serious and respected bid for the Olympic in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) At present, there is no move to bid for the 2012 Olympics though at one stage Government was contemplating to do so.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) The existing infrastructure would require substantial addition and upgradation for hosting the Olympic Games if Government decides to bid for them in the near future.

Probe into dope charges against Indian Olympics participants

688. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated moves to probe the dope related charges levelled against Indian participants in the 2004-Athens Olympics;